

## NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE Student Christian Movement Press issues a number of books of great interest on a variety of subjects that have a practical bearing on problems of to-day. Among those dealing with psychological questions is Dr. Cyril Valentine's *Psychology and Modern Life* (1s. 6d. net). It contains a series of lunch-hour talks given at a City Church and deals in a practical and effective way with some common troubles of life. The subjects are : Avoiding a Nervous Breakdown, Fitting in with Other People, Making the Best of Marriage, Facing Up to Life and Death. They contain much valuable advice for the daily round of life.

Another book of a similar character is by Lennard F. Browne, M.D., Physician to the Tavistock Clinic. The title is *Every Day Relationships*, and the advice given is practical and valuable (1s. 6d. net). The chapters are four Broadcast Talks recently given under the title "Personality and Progress." The subjects are Family Life, Youth, Marriage, Old Age and the Years Between, while a fifth chapter is devoted to Answers to Questions.

In their Religion and Life series, a second edition is issued of Nicholas Berdyaev's *The Fate of Man in the Modern World* (1s. net). This interesting book, which deals with the great problem of the effect of modern life upon man's personality, should reach a much wider circle of readers in this cheaper form. The well-known Russian author has an original, arresting, and stimulating point of view.

Dr. Adolf Keller has written "a spiritual interpretation of the Oxford and Edinburgh Conferences" under the title of *Five Minutes to Twelve* (2s. net). This commentary on the work of the Conferences gives an excellent idea of their main purpose and of the conditions with which they had to deal. The title suggests that the hour is already "five minutes to twelve," in the religious situation of the present world, and that the time is short for the Christian forces to face the issue. He sets out the final and urgent messages of the Conferences against the background of the present world and as facing the world's promise of a new order, and he also considers all that the Church of Christ has to offer. Dr. Keller's ability in surveying world conditions is so well known that there is no necessity to commend at any length this valuable survey.

*The Achievement of Personality in the Light of Psychology and Religion* by Grace Stuart, M.A., B.Litt. (5s. net), is a survey of modern psychological theories which will be found of special interest to general readers. She deals with the views of some of the leading psychologists and shows their inadequacy, especially when they ignore religion as a superfluity. Mrs. Stuart shows that religion is the great essential, and that it provides the most important elements in the organization of

personality, supplying the need for love, the need for significance, the need for security, and the need for God, "to make possible an endless growth in goodness and love and an endlessly renewed self-losing and self-finding." Professor Grensted contributes an Introduction in which he commends the book as an interpretation of the whole psychological movement in a simple and untechnical manner of special usefulness to students desiring to understand the whole scheme.

The Rev. Alan Richardson has written an introduction to the recent criticism of the Synoptic Gospels under the title, *The Gospels in the Making*. Mr. Richardson represents the attitude at present so popular of being extremely critical and reducing to a minimum those things which may be deemed as proven. The result is that he rejects much that was formerly received and finds even in our earliest authority St. Mark, a considerable amount of interpolation. Some of the Gospel received its fixed and final form largely owing to the exigencies of preaching and apologetic at a very early date. He observes that the employment of form-criticism demands great caution, but that it has performed a useful service in some ways. At the same time, it is probable that some of the more advanced views on form-criticism will have to be modified. His conclusion is that we can no longer hold the old-fashioned views of the Gospels, but rather that they tell us what the earliest communities of Christian disciples believed about their Lord. They are primarily witnesses of a faith and only secondarily witnesses of a history. The historical element is overlaid by theological interpretations. Students will be interested to learn from this book some of the theories of recent criticism.

The White Lectures delivered at St. Paul's Cathedral were this year devoted to *Our English Bible*. They are published by Longmans, Green, and Co., 2s. 6d. net. The Archdeacon of London explains that the lectures were in connection with the fourth centenary of the Reformation. The opening lecture was by Dr. Inge on What England owes to the Bible. The Second, by Canon Alexander, on the Revival of Learning. The third, by Canon Storr on William Tyndale and the First Printed English Scripture. The fourth, by the Rev. A. H. Wilkinson on Miles Coverdale, Translator and Bishop. The fifth, by Canon Anthony Deane, on the Authorized and Revised Versions. The sixth, by Dean Matthews, on The Bible, and the Living Word of God. The lectures form a very interesting and instructive souvenir of the Reformation Celebration.

Messrs. James Clarke and Co., have issued in their Challenge Series, *The Roots of Religion in the Human Soul*, by John Baillie, D.Litt., D.D., S.T.D., *The Church and the Churches*, by Karl Barth, and *The Essentials of Life and Thought*—lectures arranged by the Union of Modern Free Churchmen. Each volume is one shilling net. They deal with questions which are exercising the minds of people in all the Churches to-day concerning God, the Bible, What Christianity Really Is, and the Problems of Unity in the Churches. This last is the subject specially dealt with by Professor Karl Barth and it represents a point of view that will increasingly demand attention in the consideration of Reunion.